Nessus Cheat Sheet

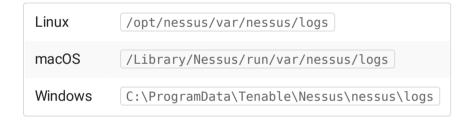## Data directories

Linux	`/opt/nessus/var/nessus`
macOS	`/Library/Nessus/run/var/nessus`
Windows	`C:\ProgramData\Tenable\Nessus\nessus`

Binary directories and utilities

Linux	`/opt/nessus/sbin` `/opt/nessus/bin`
macOS	`/Library/Nessus/run/sbin` `/Library/Nessus/run/bin`
Windows	`C:\Program Files\Tenable\Nessus` `C:\Program Files (x86)\Tenable\Nessus`

- `nessusd` - e.g. to recompile plugins
- `nessuscli` - e.g. to configure, manage and update Nessus (docs)
- `nasl` - e.g. to test, run, sign plugins

Logs directories and files

Linux	`/opt/nessus/var/nessus/logs`
macOS	`/Library/Nessus/run/var/nessus/logs`
Windows	`C:\ProgramData\Tenable\Nessus\nessus\logs`

- `nessusd.dump` — Nessus dump log file used for debugging output.
- `nessusd.messages` — Nessus scanner log.
- `www_server.log` — Nessus web server log.
- `backend.log` — Nessus backend log.
- `nessuscli.log` — Nessus CLI log.

Plugin directories and files

Linux	`/opt/nessus/lib/nessus/plugins`
macOS	`/Library/Nessus/run/lib/nessus/plugins`
Windows	`C:\ProgramData\Tenable\Nessus\nessus\plugins`

- `*.nasl` - plugins with readable source code
- `*.nbin` - compiled plugins
- `*.inc` - include libraries

Search in plugin content

```
cd /opt/nessus/lib/nessus/plugins          TERMINAL
grep -rl script_id.19506 . 1
```

1 Due to big number of plugins you need to use `-r` parameter to recursively search in plugins directory (i.e., force grep to behave as rgrep).

Advanced Settings

```
cd /opt/nessus/sbin                         TERMINAL
nessuscli fix --list
nessuscli fix --get setting_name
nessuscli fix --set setting_name=<value>
```

API

```
https://localhost:8834/api 1
https://localhost:8834/server/status 2
https://localhost:8834/server/properties 3
```

1 Access Nessus API documentation.
2 Check Nessus service status.
3 Check Nessus service version.

Good practices

When you run scan:

- ☑ Make sure that you have latest feed.
- ☑ Perform scan with credentials. (docs)

When you analyze scan results:

- ☑ Use Audit Trail to make sure why plugin did not provide result.
- ☑ Check Knowledge Base to find more details.

Additional resources

- docs.tenable.com/Nessus.htm - Nessus documentation
- tenable.com/plugins/search - Nessus Plugins Search
- community.tenable.com - Tenable Community
- github.com/tenable - Tenable profile at GitHub

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